

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 were pending.

Claims 1-6, 9-11, 14, 18,19, and 21 are amended.

Claims 7-8, 15 and 17 are cancelled.

Claims 1-6, 9-14, 16-22 are now pending.

35 USC 112, second paragraph

Claims 2, amd 4-6 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Claims 2 and 4-5 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 6 is amended to "further" comprising which should clarify the claim.

No new matter is added.

The applicants believe these amendments address and overcome the Examiner's 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejections.

Other Amendments

Claims 9, 18 and 19 have been amended to change dependencies in light of the cancelled claims.

Claims 3, 11 and 14 are amended to read "futher" as the Applicants believe this to clarify the claims.

No new matter is added

35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 6 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,997,627.

Claims 1, 10 and 21 have been amended to read wherein the benzene rings of the halogenated copper phthalocyanines are substituted by four or more halogens. Support for this amendment may be found on page 3, last paragraph. Claims 1, 10 and 21 are further amended to include the limitations of claim 8.

No new matter has been added.

Thus claims 1 and 10 specifically limit the compositions to flop-enhancing agents which are halogenated phthalocyanines which are substituted by at least 4 halogens and specific small particle size pigments.

The Examiner refers specifically to Example 12. Example 12 contains a green pigment composition (a halogenated copper phthalocyanine green and a copper phthalocyanine blue) along with white mica.

However, US 5,997,627 does not disclose halogenated phthalocyanine flop-enhancing agents wherein the benzene rings of the phthalocyanine are substituted by at least four halogens **AND the specific pigments now listed in claim 1**. Thus there can be no anticipation.

Claims 1, 3, 6-11, 15-17 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,618,343.

US 5,618,343 makes no mention of flop enhancing copper phthalocyanines wherein the benzene rings of the phthalocyanine are substituted by at least 4 halogens.

Thus there can be no anticipation.

35 USC 103(a)

Claims 2, 4, 5 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,618,343.

The Applicants believe the amendments to claims 1 and 10 overcomes this obviousness rejection.

Claims 1 and 10 are novel in light of the amendment. Furthermore, as US 5,618,343 makes no mention whatsoever of a flop enhancing agent which is a halogenated copper phthalocyanine wherein the benzene rings of the phthalocyanine are substituted by at least 4 halogens, US '343 provides no suggestion to make this selection.

Additionally, as this is a 103(a) rejection, the showing in table IV shows Pigment Green 7 to have better outdoor durability than copper phthalocyanine sulfonic acid (flop-enhancing agent of US '343). This improved performance could not have been predicted based on US '343.

Because the compositions of the present invention show surprising durability advantages, the Applicants believe the 103(a) rejection is overcome and requests reconsideration

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 9-14, 16-22 is respectfully solicited in light of the remarks and amendments *supra*. Since there are no other grounds of objection or rejection, passage of this application to issue with claims 1-6, 9-14, 16-22 is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

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Respectfully submitted,



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